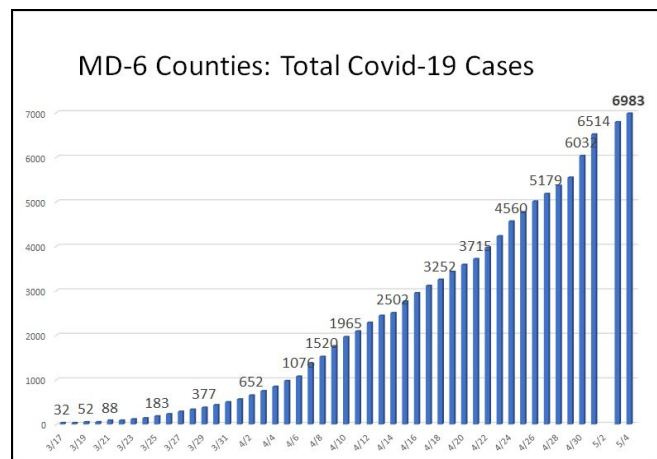
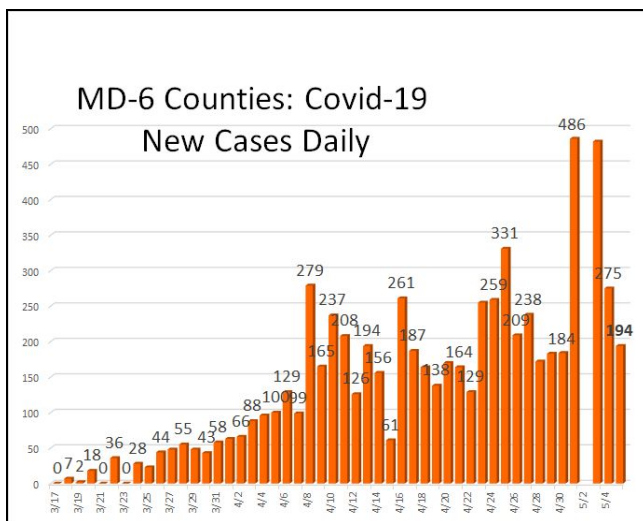
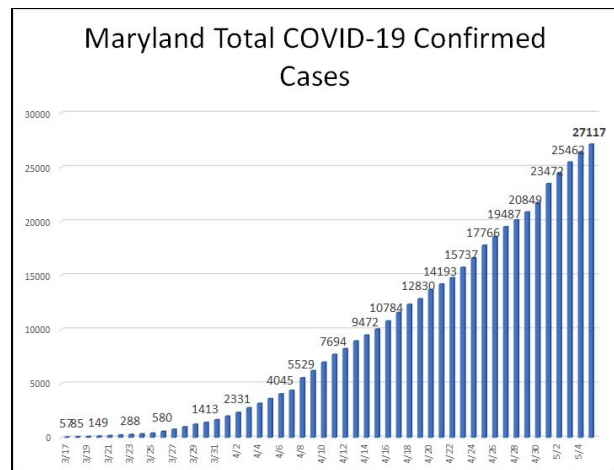
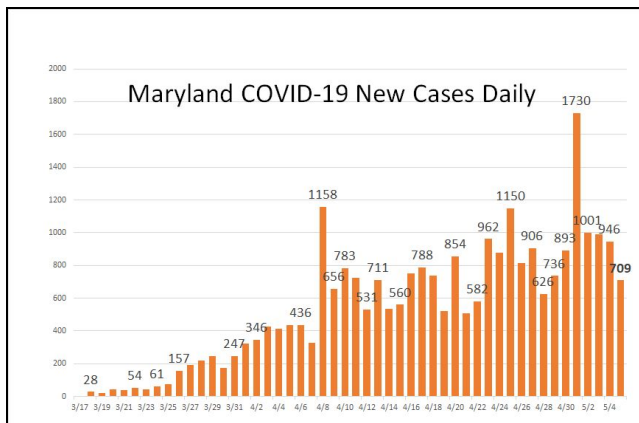
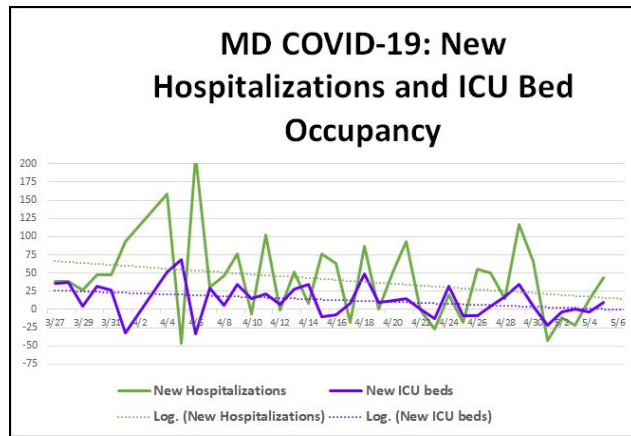
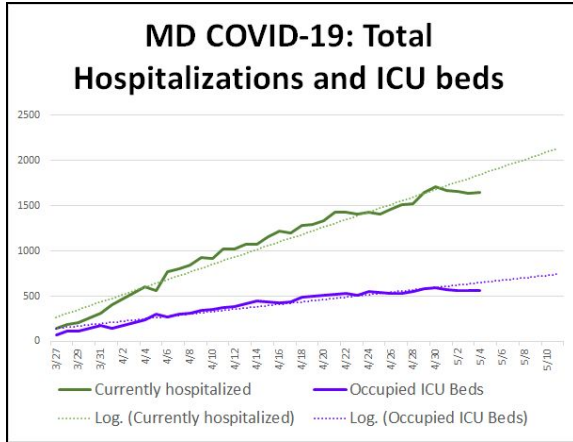


## Daily Coronavirus Update: May 5, 5 PM Congressman David Trone (MD6)

### Stats @ 5 PM

With increased testing capacity coming online in Maryland, Governor Larry Hogan will track trends in **hospitalizations** and **ICU beds** for indicators on when to initiate plans to reopen the state.



MD6 today: MoCo (5,541), Fred.(1,071), Wash.(238), Allegany (129), Garrett (4). MD reports 1,290 total deaths ([MD Dept. of Health](#)).

As of 5 PM today, the United States had recorded 1,201,337 total confirmed cases and 70,646 deaths due to Coronavirus ([JHU](#)).

## Federal Updates

- The White House is planning to disband its COVID-19 Task Force in the next few weeks, according to Vice President Pence, who spoke to reporters today. As widely reported, the administration is looking to shift focus from the **daily public health** response toward the **economic reopening of the country**. The vice president said that talks of a transition plan are underway with FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is the lead agency coordinating the administration's pandemic response. "We're starting to look at the Memorial Day window, early June window as a time when we could begin to transition back to having our agencies begin to manage...our national response in a more traditional manner." He also said that talks are "a reflection of the tremendous progress we've made as a country." A senior White House office stressed that the doctors, including Dr. Deborah Birx and Dr. Anthony Fauci, will still be involved and advising the administration. ([ABC News](#) and [The Hill](#))
- [WTOP](#) today reported that fear of becoming infected by coronavirus remains high among Americans, and a vast majority oppose reopening many kinds of businesses, according to a new poll. Despite moves by some states to relax coronavirus-prompted restrictions, [in a Washington Post-University of Maryland poll](#), a range of 74-82 percent of respondents say they're against opening dine-in restaurants, nail and hair salons, barber shops, retail shops, gyms, and movie theaters.

## Maryland Updates

- Ocean City is planning to reopen beaches this Saturday to the general public and will not look to keep out-of-towners away, according to [The Baltimore Sun](#), reporting on a press conference today by Ocean City Mayor Rick Meehan. The mayor does not believe the decision violates Gov. Larry Hogan's executive order allowing for essential travel only.
- Medical staff at the University of Maryland School of Medicine have begun injecting the first few people with a potential vaccine for the coronavirus as part of an accelerated international effort to have a vaccine ready to begin use in some people as early as this fall. As reported in [The Baltimore Sun](#), the trial at UMD's Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health and three other sites in the U.S. and Germany is for four separate but similar vaccine candidates developed by Pfizer Inc. and the German company BioNTech. Pfizer announced the U.S. trials Tuesday morning. Dr. Kirsten Lyke, an infectious disease expert and the study's lead investigator in Baltimore, explained that the "vaccine is actually four different vaccines, with testing moving rapidly, head-to-head...We're hoping one rises to the top."

## District Updates

- Montgomery County
  - a. As of Tuesday morning, the Maryland Department of Health reports 5,541 cases of COVID-19 in Montgomery County, which is an increase of 157 cases from the 5,384 reported Monday. The health department reports that 292 county residents have died from COVID-19 in Montgomery County. This is an increase of 18 deaths since Monday. The number of probable deaths is 28.
  - b. Montgomery County is now accepting applications for the Covid-19 Emergency Food Access Grant program until noon on Friday, May 8. The funding for the program will be used to provide food assistance and recovery for "hard-to-reach" Montgomery County communities during the pandemic. The funds will start being distributed on Tuesday, May 12. Non-profits can apply for up to \$75,000, according to the county. Montgomery County Council devoted \$1.2 million in funding for the program to increase food access to residents, including increasing availability of culturally appropriate food assistance. All grants awarded will be reviewed by the county's Food Security Task Force and the Healthcare Initiative Foundation will award the money, according to the county.

- c. The Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation will be administering and awarding up to \$2,500 grants to eligible county businesses and nonprofits for teleworking equipment and software purchased due to the pandemic. Applications for the grants open on May 6 at 10 a.m. on the MCEDC website. The \$250,000 Telework Assistance Program fund was approved on April 30 by the county council, according to MCEDC. Due to Gov. Larry Hogan's Stay-At-Home Order, many businesses had to implement new teleworking policies. The Telework Assistance Program was created to reimburse local businesses and nonprofits for the expenses associated with implementing a telework policy due to the pandemic.
- Frederick County
  - a. Gov. Larry Hogan's office pushed back on claims made in a lawsuit filed by Del. Dan Cox this weekend, a suit which claims Cox's First Amendment rights were violated and some of Hogan's executive orders are not allowed under state law. The lawsuit, which lists Cox (R-Frederick and Carroll), Delegates Neil Parrott (R-Washington) and Warren Miller (R-Carroll and Howard), several members of the religious community statewide, Adventure Park USA in Monrovia, and Reopen Maryland as plaintiffs — among others — claims Cox could have been arrested if he attended a rally and gave a speech in protest of the governor's executive orders at the Francis Scott Key Mall in Frederick on Saturday.
- Washington County
  - a. Del. Neil Parrott is continuing to take issue with Gov. Larry Hogan's stay-at-home order to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus, saying he is worried how such actions by the executive branch could set a precedent in state government. Parrott's comments come after he and 17 other plaintiffs filed the above mentioned lawsuit.
  - b. The Washington County Board of Commissioners declared this week COVID-19 Public Health & Safety Heroes Week. Commissioners President Jeff Cline read the proclamation during the commissioners meeting on Tuesday, held via teleconference because of the pandemic. The board is recognizing doctors, nurses, other healthcare professionals, first responders and essential workers. The recognition weeks runs from May 3-9.
- Allegany County
  - a. Another resident of the Cumberland Healthcare Center has died from COVID-19, and a second resident of a Frostburg nursing home has tested positive for the disease, Allegany County health officials said Monday. The female resident of the Cumberland facility was the 13th Allegany County resident to die from complications of the virus and the eighth with a connection to the nursing home. Confirmed cases in the county rose to 128, according to a news release issued by the Allegany County Health Department. The new cases include the resident from Sterling Frostburg Village — another resident and staffer had previously tested positive — a man in his 60s, a woman in her 60s, a man in his 70s and a woman in her 20s. Of 1,038 Allegany County residents tested for COVID-19, 884 have tested negative and 26 results were pending.
- Garrett County
  - a. Garrett County health officials on Tuesday confirmed a fifth case of COVID-19, the first in nearly a month. A news release issued by the Garrett County Health Department said the woman is in her 20s and employed at an Allegany County facility with a known outbreak. She is isolating at home. Health officials also said Tuesday that 286 tests for the new coronavirus had been administered in the county, with 249 negative results. The county's fourth case was reported on April 6.